<u>AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please cancel Claims 9, 10, 25 through 28, 30 through 32, and 34 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

1. (Original) A print control apparatus having a function for temporarily saving output intermediate data of document data in accordance with a document data print instruction, comprising:

an image data generator configured to generate image data on the basis of the temporarily saved intermediate data;

a previewer configured to, when display of a print image of the document data is designated by the print instruction, issue an image generation request in accordance with the print instruction, and displaying a preview window representing the print image of the document data on the basis of acquired preview display information; and

a processing controller configured to control said image data generator so as to generate the image data in response to issuing of the image generation request, notifying said previewer of the preview display information based on the generated image data, and thus controlling said previewer so as to display a preview representing the print image.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the image generation request issued by said previewer includes designation information on a size or resolution of image data to be generated, and

said processing controller controls said image data generator so as to generate the image data at the size or resolution designated by the designation information.

3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the image generation request issued by said previewer includes page number information on a total number of pages of image data to be generated, and

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said processing controller controls said image data generator so as to generate image data corresponding to a page number designated by the page number information.

4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image generation request issued by said previewer includes the number of colors used for bitmap data stored in a print image file, or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said processing controller creates a designated number of files for saving the image data generated by said image data generator, and stores the preview display information based on the generated image data in the file, and

when preview display is designated by the print instruction and preview display information corresponding to the designated print image is stored in the file, said previewer displays the preview window representing the print image on the basis of the information read out from the file.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said previewer issues an inquiry about whether print data to be printed is temporarily saved as intermediate data, said processing controller sends a reply to the inquiry.

7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when said previewer issues an inquiry about a total number of pages in actually printing the target document data, said processing controller sends a reply to the inquiry.

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing controller so controls as to generate the image data by said image data generator on the basis of the

temporarily saved intermediate data in accordance with a print start request, and controls a printing apparatus so as to print on the basis of the generated image data.

9 - 10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) A print control method of displaying a preview representing a print image of document data in accordance with a document data print instruction, comprising:

a generation step of, when display of a print image of the document data is designated by the print instruction, causing image data generator to generate image data on the basis of output intermediate data of temporarily saved document data in accordance with the print instruction; and

a display step of displaying the generated image data on a display.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in the generation step, the image data generator generates the image data at a designated size or resolution.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in the generation step, the image data generator generates image data corresponding to a page number designated by a total number of pages to be printed as an image data generation object based on the intermediate data.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein in the generation step, the image data generator generates the image data by a designated number of colors or a subtractive process used to create bitmap data.

15. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein

in the generation step, a designated number of files for saving the image data generated by the image data generator are created to store the generated image data in the file, and

in the display step, when image data corresponding to a preview display designated print image is stored in the file, a preview window representing the print image is displayed on the basis of the image data read out from the file.

16. (Original) A computer program for print control which runs in an operating system environment having an output intermediate data spool function in a computer, comprising:

a program code for an image data generation function of generating image data on the basis of intermediate data spooled by the spool function;

a program code for a preview function of, when display of a print image of document data is designated by a print instruction, issuing an image generation request in accordance with the print instruction, and displaying a preview window representing the print image of the document data on the basis of acquired preview display information; and

a program code for a processing control function of controlling the image generation function so as to generate the image data in response to issuing of the image generation request, and controlling the preview function so as to display a preview representing the print image by notifying the preview function of the preview display information based on the generated image data.

17. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein

the image generation request issued by the preview function includes designation information on a size or resolution of image data to be generated, and

the program code for the processing control function is executed to control the image data generation function so as to generate the image data at the size or resolution designated by the designation information.

18. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein

the image generation request issued by the preview function includes page number information on a total number of pages of image data to be generated, and

the program code for the processing control function is executed to control the image data generation function so as to generate image data corresponding to a page number designated by the page number information.

19. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein the image generation request issued by the preview function includes the number of colors used for bitmap data stored in a print image file, or a subtractive process used to create the bitmap data.

20. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein

the program code for the processing control function is executed to create a designated number of files for saving the image data generated by the image data generation function, and store the preview display information based on the generated image data in the file, and

the program code for the preview function is executed to, when preview display is designated by the print instruction and preview display information corresponding to the designated print image is stored in the file, display the preview window representing the print image on the basis of the information read out from the file.

21. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein the program code for the processing control function is executed to, when the preview function issues an inquiry about

whether print data to be printed is temporarily saved as intermediate data, send a reply to the inquiry.

22. (Original) The program according to claim 21, wherein the program code for the processing control function is executed to, when the preview function issues an inquiry about a total number of pages in actually printing the target document data, send a reply to the inquiry.

23. (Original) The program according to claim 16, wherein the program code for the processing control function is executed to control so as to generate the image data by the image data generation function on the basis of the temporarily saved intermediate data in accordance with a print start request, and control a printing apparatus so as to print on the basis of the generated image data.

24. (Original) A computer readable storage medium which stores codes of a computer program defined in claim 16.

25 - 28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) A printer driver preview method of displaying a preview on the basis of print data which is supplied from an application and spooled by a standard spool function of an operating system.

30 - 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Original) A print image preview method comprising:
a step of activating a previewer when a print processor is activated by a spooler;

a step of generating a preview file in accordance with a print image generation request from the activated previewer;

a step of writing image data in the generated preview file; and

a step of reading out the image data from the preview file and displaying a preview.

34. (Cancelled)